

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, NI, PFOR, US

SUBJECT: US POSITION ON IBRD LOANS TO NIGERIA

1. NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR GARBA MET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ENDERS TODAY AT GARBA'S REQUEST TO INQUIRE WHY U.S.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IBRD REQUESTED ONE WEEK POSTPONEMENT
OF 5 NIGERIAN LOANS WHICH IBRD EXECUTIVE BOARD WAS TO
CONSIDER TODAY.

2. ENDERS EXPLAINED US REQUESTED DELAY IN LINE WITH OUR
WISH THAT IBRD BOARD HAVE GENERAL DISCUSSION ON QUESTION
OF WORLD BANK LENDING TO OPEC COUNTRIES IN LIGHT OF
LATTER'S NEW LIQUIDITY. ENDERS OBSERVED THAT SOME OPEC
COUNTRIES SUCH AS NIGERIA AND INDONESIA STILL HAVE NEED
FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATED WITH IBRD PROJECTS,
AND MANY LOANS COMING UP FOR CONSIDERATION ORIGINATED
2-3 YEARS AGO IN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC SITUATION AND NOW
HAVE LIFE OF THEIR OWN. ALTHOUGH SUCH CONSIDERATION
SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND, US-BELIEVES THERE SHOULD BE
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DISCUSSION OF GENERAL ISSUE OF IBRD LENDING TO OPEC COUN-

TRIES.

3. GARBA REPLIED HE FOUND IT "UPSETTING" FOR NIGERIA, WHICH HAD TAKEN NO "HOSTILE" ACTION AGAINST US RE SUPPLY OF CRUDE PETROLEUM AS HAVE SOME OTHER OPEC MEMBERS, TO BE

PUT IN GENERAL OPEC CATEGORY. HE REMARKED ON THE GREATER NEED FOR IBRD ASSISTANCE BY SOME OPEC COUNTRIES LIKE NIGERIA AND INDONESIA, AS WELL AS THEIR GREATER ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY, AND HE OBSERVED THAT THE IBRD LOANS TO NIGERIA IN QUESTION WERE FOR ECONOMICALLY SOUND AGRICULTURE PROJECTS. GARBA FELT THAT US POLICY REGARDING WORLD BANK LENDING IS A FURTHER INDICATION OF A US POLICY OF CONFRONTATION WITH OPEC COUNTRIES. HE WONDERED IF THE NEW U.S. POSITION ON IBRD LENDING IS RELATED TO AMBASSADOR SCALI'S RECENT REMARKS IN NEW YORK ABOUT U.S. DISPLEASURE WITH TRENDS TOWARD MAJORITY TYRANNY IN THE U.N.

4. ON THE LATTER POINT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS ASSURED AMBASSADOR GARBA THAT THE TWO EVENTS WERE NOT RELATED. HE SAID THAT OUR REQUEST FOR DELAY OF IBRD CONSIDERATION OF NIGERIA'S LOANS SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS BEING DIRECTED AT NIGERIA. IT WAS ONLY INCIDENTAL THAT U.S. REQUEST FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF LENDING COMES AT TIME NIGERIAN LOANS TO BE TAKEN UP BY IBRD. INDEED, THE US HOPES GENERAL DEBATE OF THE ISSUE OF WORLD BANK LENDING WILL RECOGNIZE THE DIFFERENT DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF OPEC COUNTRIES. ENDERS TOLD GARBA THAT THE U.S. INTENDS TO MAKE THAT DISTINCTION DURING THE IBRD DISCUSSIONS NEXT WEEK AND "I THINK YOU WILL BE SATISFIED".

5. AMBASSADOR GARBACOMMENTED THAT IF THE CASE OF NIGERIA IS EXCEPTIONAL, PERHAPS THE US MIGHT ALLOW THE IBRD TO CLEAR THE DECKS OF THE 5 IBRD LOANS TO NIGERIA WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO BE CONSIDERED THIS MONTH BEFORE THE US LAUNCHES ITS GENERAL DEBATE ON LENDING TO OPEC COUNTRIES.

6. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS THANKED AMBASSADOR GARBA FOR COMING IN TO DISCUSS THE MATTER AND HE PROMISED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAKE GARBA'S VIEWS KNOWN IN ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE U.S. POSITION.

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